

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/GB 03/03066

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 9202640	A 20-02-1992	AU	645609 B2	20-01-1994
		AU	8543091 A	02-03-1992
		CA	2087844 A1	09-02-1992
		EP	0542920 A1	26-05-1993
		JP	5507417 T	28-10-1993
		WO	9202640 A1	20-02-1992

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FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 11-16

Present claims 11-16 relate to an extremely large number of possible compounds, without giving any structural feature or definition of said compounds. Support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT is not to be found, however, for the compounds claimed. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the claimed scope is impossible.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**PCT/GB 03/03066****Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)**

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: 11-16 because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	ABADJI VASILIKI ET AL: "Involvement of the carboxyl terminus of the third intracellular loop of the cannabinoid CB1 receptor in constitutive activation of Gs" JOURNAL OF NEUROCHEMISTRY, vol. 72, no. 5, May 1999 (1999-05), pages 2032-2038, XP000991067 ISSN: 0022-3042 the whole document	1,3,5,6, 9,17
Y		1-6,9,10
X	MCALLISTER SEAN D ET AL: "Cannabinoid receptors can activate and inhibit G protein-coupled inwardly rectifying potassium channels in a Xenopus oocyte expression system" JOURNAL OF PHARMACOLOGY AND EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS, vol. 291, no. 2, November 1999 (1999-11), pages 618-626, XP000991546 ISSN: 0022-3565 the whole document	1,3,5,6, 9,17
Y		1-6,9,10
X	NIE, J. AND LEWIS, D. L.: "Structural domains of the CB1 cannabinoid receptor that contribute to constitutive activity and G-protein sequestration" THE JOURNAL OF NEUROSCIENCE, vol. 21, no. 22, 15 November 2001 (2001-11-15), pages 8758-8764, XP001155873 the whole document	17
A		1-10, 18-31

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**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB03/03066

I. Basis of the report

The basis of this international preliminary examination is the application as originally filed.

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The question of whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step, or to be industrially applicable has not been the subject of the international preliminary examination in respect of the claims which have not been searched (Article 17(2)(a) or (3) and Rule 66.1(e) PCT); see also international search report).

V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or Industrial applicability

To the extent that the international preliminary examination has been carried out (see item III above), the following is pointed out:

In light of the documents cited in the international search report, it is considered that the invention as defined in the independent claims, which have been the subject of an international search report, meets the criteria mentioned in Article 33(1) PCT, i.e. appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step and to be industrially applicable.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 G01N33/68 G01N33/94

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC 7 G01N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

BIOSIS, EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data, MEDLINE, EMBASE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 92 02640 A (THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA) 20 February 1992 (1992-02-20) claims 1-26; figures 1-5 -----	1-10, 17-31
A	SHIRE, D. ET AL: "An amino-terminal variant of the central cannabinoid receptor resulting from alternative splicing" THE JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY, vol. 270, no. 8, 1995, pages 3726-3731, XP002258733 abstract -----	1-10, 17-31

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- *G* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the International search	Date of mailing of the International search report
19 November 2003	16/12/2003
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Moreno de Vega, C

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